

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for electronically processing a commercial transaction,  
the method comprising:

determining whether a monetary amount associated with the  
transaction meets a selected threshold amount;

when said monetary amount associated with the transaction does  
not meet said selected threshold amount, utilizing a first account for  
settling the transaction; and

when the monetary amount associated with the transaction does  
meet the selected threshold amount, utilizing a second account for settling  
the transaction.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first account is an  
account associated with a communications service.

3. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said second account is  
an account associated with a transaction processing service.

4. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said second account is  
selected from the group consisting of a VISA account, a Master Card account, an  
American Express account, and a Discover account.

5. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said communications service is a wireless communications service.

6. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said communications service is a telecommunications service.

7. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said communications service is a broad band communications service.

8. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said service is a satellite communications service.

9. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said communications service is a cable communications service.

10. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first account is associated with a media service.

11. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said transaction is initiated with a communications device associated with said first account.

12. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said communications device is a wireless communications device.

13. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said communications device is an interactive television.

14. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said communications device is a telephone.

15. The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein said telephone operates on an Internet protocol.

16. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said communications device is a personal computing device.

17. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said transaction is guaranteed by a guarantor.

18. The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said guarantor comprises at least one organization which provides communications or electronic media services.

19. The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said guarantor comprises a plurality of organizations which provide communications or media services.

20. The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said guarantor further comprises at least one organization which provides banking services.

21. The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said guarantor comprises at least one organization which provides payment processing services.

22. A method for electronically processing a commercial transaction, said method comprising:

determining whether the sum of a monetary amount associated with the transaction and monetary amounts associated with other commercial transactions made within a selected time period meets a selected threshold amount;

when said sum does not meet said selected threshold amount, utilizing a first account for settling said commercial transactions; and

when said sum does meet said selected threshold amount, utilizing a second account for settling said commercial transactions.

23. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein said first account is an account associated with a communications service.

24. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein said first account is associated with a media service.

25. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein said transaction is initiated with a communications device associated with said first account.

26. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein said transaction is guaranteed by a guarantor.

27. A method for electronically processing a commercial transaction, the method comprising:

determining whether a merchant associated with said commercial transaction is an authorized merchant;

when it is determined whether said merchant associated with said commercial transaction is authorized, utilizing a first account for settling said commercial transaction; and

when it is determined that said merchant is not an authorized merchant, utilizing a second account for settling said commercial transaction.

28. The method as set forth in claim 27, wherein said first account is an account associated with a communications or media service.

29. The method as set forth in claim 28, wherein said second account is an account associated with a payment processing service.

30. The method as set forth in claim 28, wherein said second account is an account associated with a bank.

31. The method as set forth in claim 28, wherein said first and second accounts are selectable by a user.

32. The method as set forth in claim 31, wherein a selection by a user of said first and second accounts made on a user interface on a communications device associated with said communications or media service.

33. The method as set forth in claim 32, wherein said selection results in a default to said account until changed.